

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072759

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF US

SUBJECT: DUTCH FONMIN'S VISIT TO ISRAEL - PRE-DEPARTURE

BRIEFING BY EMBASSY

REF: STATE 69910

1. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IF YOU BELIEVE
ANY FURTHER BRIEFING IS NEEDED.

2. BEGIN TALKING POINTS.

--U.S.GOVERNMENT AND SECRETARY PERSONALLY HAD BEEN SEEKING
TO ASSIST PARTIES AT THEIR REQUEST TO ACHIEVE INTERIM
AGREEMENT AS FURTHER STEP TOWARD JUST AND LASTING PEACE FOR
ALL PEOPLES OF MIDDLE EAST. WE BELIEVED THAT SUCH STEP
WOULD REPRESENT PROGRESS TOWARD OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

3. --BEGINNING MARCH 7, SECRETARY KISSINGER UNDERTOOK TWO
WEEKS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS IN AREA, DURING WHICH HE
MET NUMBER OF TIMES WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND KEY MEMBERS OF
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ISRAELI CABINET. IMMEDIATE FOCUS WAS ON ACHIEVING FURTHER

STEP TOWARD ADDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL AND PEACE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

4. --SECRETARY MET TWICE WITH PRESIDENT ASAD, WHOM HE ASSURED OF OUR CONVICTION THAT IT IS NEITHER OUR INTENTION NOR IN OUR INTEREST TO DIVIDE ARAB WORLD AND THAT SETTLEMENT MUST INCLUDE ALL PARTIES TO THAT CONFLICT. SECRETARY ALSO CONSULTED WITH KING HUSSEIN AND KING FAISAL.

5. --IT WAS UNFORTUNATELY NOT POSSIBLE IN COURSE OF THIS EFFORT TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTIES ON CERTAIN KEY ISSUES, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO MOVE TOWARD END OF BELLIGERENCY IN RETURN FOR SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER WITHDRAWAL AND EGYPT'S NEED TO RECOVER POSSESSION OF SINAI OIL FIELDS AND PASSES.

6. --IN OUR VIEW NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT BE CONCLUDED BECAUSE BOTH SIDES REACHED LIMITATIONS OF THEIR POLITICAL POSSIBILITIES. IT IS TRAGEDY IN THAT WE BELIEVE LEADERS ON BOTH SIDES WANTED AGREEMENT.

7. --ISRAELIS FACED DILEMMA THAT ANY STEP TOWARD SETTLEMENT IS INHERENTLY ASYMMETRICAL, SINCE ISRAEL MUST GIVE UP TERRITORY IN RETURN FOR ESSENTIALLY INTANGIBLE CONCESSIONS BY ARABS. OUR POSITION WAS THAT WHILE NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND AN ARAB NEIGHBOR CAN BE BASED ON ABSOLUTE EQUITY, WHAT WAS TO BE GAINED WAS CONTINUATION OF PROCESS THAT WOULD ENABLE U.S., ISRAEL, AND MODERATE ARABS TO MAINTAIN CENTRAL POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

8. --EGYPTIANS HAD TO CONSIDER EFFECT OF WHATEVER STEP THEY MIGHT TAKE ON OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS WITH INTEREST IN NEGOTIATION, PARTICULARLY SYRIA.

9. --WE CONCLUDED THAT PERIOD OF REASSESSMENT WAS NEEDED SO THAT ALL CONCERNED CAN CONSIDER HOW BEST TO PROCEED. UNITED STATES WILL BE REVIEWING QUESTION OF WHAT APPROACH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IN MONTHS AHEAD. THERE WILL INEVITABLY BE MANY CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES ABOUT REASONS FOR SUSPENSION OF THIS PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE WILL AVOID AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WE ARE URGING OTHERS TO AVOID HASTY CONCLUSIONS, TO KEEP DOOR OPEN FOR NEW APPROACHES, AND TO JUDGE U.S. POLICY BY OUR ACTIONS AS SITUATION EVOLVES.

10. --UNITED STATES REMAINS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TO SEEK FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. IT IS OUR FIRM CONVICTION THAT DOOR FOR FURTHER PROGRESS MUST BE KEPT OPEN, AND IT IS OUR INTENTION TO DO SO AS WE CONSIDER WHAT NEW APPROACH

MIGHT BEST SERVE CAUSE OF PEACE IN AREA. ACHIEVEMENT OF
JUST AND LASTING PEACE REMAINS OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE OF
AMERICAN POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST. END TALKING POINTS. KISSINGER

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